

May 12 - 1943

15 W. 67th St

Dearest Darling & Kathleen,
Please forgive Percil & I, but I
am at the switchboard, and as it
is slow I have time to write a
line or two between calls.

It horrified me to learn of your
illness - both of you. What a
dreadful time you have been
having. I just can't conceive
of such an awful time as
you have been going through.

It is just the worst luck
to have ones heart pick up and
then all that enforced rest - so
dull & such a waste of
time when there is so much
you want to do. And

of course all the doctors bills,
when there certainly are better
ways of spending ones money.
But everyone tells me that if
one is really good and obeys
doctors orders that one gets to be
as good as new again.

And Kathleen, for you to go and
become allergic (allergic)
(allergic) (just can't spell it)
that is too awful. a strict
diet is bad at the best, and
now with the rationing it
must be very hard indeed.

You probably have been
forbidden all the easy things
and permitted all the more

2/ or less impossible things. Well,
it is very bad & I am very
sorry for you both, and my
best wishes for a quick comeback
are with you both.

Did I write you that the Böhlers
are going to South America to
remain there for the rest of their
days. It seems to me an
undertaking! Mr. Böhler is at
least 82 years old. Helen
went to a final farewell
for Mr. Böhler. It was a
concert at which he played
and then a reception. Mr. B.
was given a purse which
had been collected, over
\$700. — is that not grand?

I have not seen or heard of
the Willkes this winter, until
three days ago there was a
telephone message that Mrs
Willke had telephoned me
when I was out! I did
not follow it up! so I
don't know what she
wanted. (and don't care!)

yesterday I washed again
in ~~less~~ and water the
beautiful crystal flowers
my Darling had made for
our dining room table. They
look wonderful! They shine
like ice, and washing
does not hurt the silk

3) winding. How I wish you
both could be here and
have a meal & see how
nice that center piece looks.
Nelen is up in Stockbridge
working in her vegetable garden
& milking cows on a dairy
farm. yesterday, she wrote, she
was shown how to clean out
the stables! I hope means
other clothes, & will not be
like the Sedgewicks former
butler who used to come
from carrying the horses
to wait on the table in the
dining room!

Do not the war news com-

define these days? Really very
encouraging. I shall be
relieved when Churchill gets
back to England, it is a
worry until they are safe
back in their own homes.
Don't you think our coal
strikes etc a disgrace to
our country? What must
our fighting boys think when
they hear of such things? It
looks now as if, perhaps
we will put a stop to
strikes of that kind that hinder
our war production,

I have not seen the Fields
or Idleness this winter, but

4/ we have exchanged letters,
& they seem to be alright.
Did I write you that the
Fitches came to a party we
gave, and were most charming
& attractive. We talked much
about you.

The Switchboard is beginning to
get busy, & I am interrupted
too often, so will stop now.
I have amusing experiences down
here, the last one was that
a new tenant, who did not
know me by sight, offered
me a tip of \$1. — for
having been so nice about
getting all his numbers!

after a rather lengthy and
to him embarrassing ex-
planation it ended by his
inviting ^{me} to come to his
studio next Sunday night
to hear some music!!

It was all very funny,
wish I could write about
it at length. So now I
am going up to his place
instead of accepting a tip!!

Had to stop as the switchboard
became too busy. - How I

wish I could have heard
Kathleen's recital on April 1st

How grand about the
eight broadcast concerts.
What a shame we

5)

MRS. EDWIN T. RICE
15 WEST 67TH STREET
NEW YORK

cannot get them here. - No
I have not read Daniel Mann's
book, hope to some time. - Our
point rationing is not bad, my
hand on the Store Ration; gives
them endless extra work. We
have plenty to eat here, any one
complaining should be ~~chastized~~
chastised. - Henry & Richardson
are well, & so are the Bidens.
I fully understand how you
felt at losing your cat. It is
my hand when one has grown

fond of animals. That is one of
my reasons for not having any
more cats.

I am simply Thrilled by the news
paper clippings; they are wonderful,
and I am sure Jan & Kathleen
are also Thrilled. If some time
Jan must have them back, I
will send them, but for the
present I shall keep them &
show them to lots of mutual
friends. I am so glad that
Kathleen had this enormous &
well deserved success. I am answering
all Jan's questions now, so will
stop. Lots of love & thanks for the
wonderful letter. Affectionately
Maryand.